



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **TEACHER/PRINCIPAL SURVEY PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The TELL (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning) Kentucky Survey provides a unique, anonymous opportunity to gather information about school working conditions from those whose views matter most -- practicing educators.

From March 1 to March 25, the TELL survey will be administered to all Kentucky certified educators employed in the state's 174 school districts. The purpose of the survey is to document and analyze how teachers and other educators view their teaching and learning conditions, so that educators, stakeholders and policymakers can make evidence-based decisions on policies and practices that will improve student achievement and teacher retention.

"Teaching conditions are student learning conditions," said Governor Steve Beshear. "When we focus on supporting our teachers, our students benefit. This is an opportunity for us to hear directly from those that matter most to our students -- the educators in our schools."

All school-based certified public school teachers and principals will be asked to submit their perceptions on a variety of issues related to student achievement and teacher retention, including the adequacy of facilities and resources; time; empowerment; school leadership; community support; student conduct; professional development; mentoring and induction services; and student learning.

"For the first time in the history of the state, every public school teacher and principal in Kentucky has the opportunity to shape the future of our schools," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "This survey gives teachers and administrators the chance to tell policymakers what they need to do their jobs well. We value the voices of the people who work with the children across the Commonwealth every day in our schools, and this survey will let their voices be heard."

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By documenting and analyzing how public school educators view critical teaching and learning conditions, this initiative will provide each Kentucky school with its own data that can become a part of the ongoing improvement planning processes in their buildings, school districts and at the state policy-making level. At the school and district levels, TELL Kentucky data can be used to promote discussions about instruction, planning time, professional development, school improvement and related policy issues.

At the state level, the data will be useful to the Governor, the state board and department of education, legislators and other policymakers who are committed to listening to the voices of educators as they develop and implement education reform policies.

The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain anonymous.

To encourage large response rates, the Kentucky Education Association, Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Kentucky School Boards Association and Jefferson County Teachers Association are contributing prize money for weekly drawings. Every school that reaches a 50 percent response rate will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000 cash award for the school. Schools that reach a 100 percent response rate will be entered into a drawing for the \$1,000 cash award to go to an individual educator. There also will be district-level awards. School and district completion rates will be posted on the TELL Kentucky website after the survey begins.

The survey will be administered by the [New Teacher Center](#) (NTC), a national organization dedicated to supporting the development of a high-quality teaching force. NTC has conducted similar surveys in other states and provides induction and professional development for teachers and principals across the country. Since 2008 NTC has administered the teaching conditions survey in eleven states, hearing from almost 500,000 educators.

Results from the teacher responses will be aggregated and reported by NTC no later than June 1. These reports will be a compilation of educator responses to all questions and will be presented as bar charts and in Excel format for the school (if at least 50 percent of educators respond), district and state.

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TELL Kentucky is conducted under the leadership of the Kentucky Department of Education and supported by a coalition of education organizations, all of whom believe that it is critically important to listen to educators' views when shaping school improvement strategies.

The Coalition Partners are:

- Governor Steve Beshear, Commonwealth of Kentucky
- Kentucky Board of Education
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board
- Kentucky Education Association
- Kentucky Association of School Councils
- Kentucky Association of School Administrators
- Jefferson County Teachers Association
- Kentucky PTA
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky School Boards Association
- Kentucky Association of School Superintendents
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Partnership for Kentucky Schools
- Prichard Committee

For more information about the 2011 TELL Kentucky Survey and to track individual response rates for every school, please visit [www.tellkentucky.org](http://www.tellkentucky.org).

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